

Youth-based Volunteer Training, and School and Community Substance Abuse Prevention Program Series at Mahaweli System “H”

Introduction

Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka has collaborated with National Dangerous Drugs Control Board to enhance the quality of lives their farmers and reduce the use of substance in their areas since 2016.

In 2025 January, Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka has organized an Youth Base Training and Evidence based Substance Abuse Prevention Program series in Mahaweli System “H” targeting Youths, schools and community organizations.

Evidences show that youth is a powerful force in drug prevention in the world. They have an outstanding understanding and ability to reach out their peers more than any prevention expert. This makes them easy to reach their own youth group members with positive drug prevention messages without stigmatizing. “Sujatha Daruwo” programme aims to train these youth groups as peer educators and drug prevention agents to deliver drug prevention message to community in their respective Mahaweli areas.

National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB) is the pioneer government institution, which discharges its functions with an aim to control (Demand Reduction) the drug menace from Sri Lanka. In 1984, parliament enacted the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board Act No. 11 of 1984 and the board came into operation on 9th of April 1984.

The Prevention Education and Training Division is committed to fulfilling the responsibility of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board to reduce the prevalence of drug abuse and mitigate the harm caused by drugs in accordance with the statutory law and international conventions of Sri Lanka. In order to find solutions to the prevailing drug problem in the island, programmes with

balanced and comprehensive approaches are implemented to reduce the demand for narcotics, focusing on prevention, social integration and sustainable development.

The Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka established in 1979 by an Act of Parliament. They are involving more than 40% of total land of Sri Lanka to innovative Agriculture productivity based on the latest technology supplementing the generation of renewable energy, best environment and tourism for the enrichment of the Sri Lankan community and their living standards.

Vision

- Drug Free Mahaweli

Goals

- Develop active volunteer youth work force for SUD prevention
- To avoid or delay drug use, especially adolescence in Mahaweli areas.
- Enhance the quality of living in Mahaweli villagers.
- Reduce the demand for the substances in Mahaweli areas.
- To Make an Active Drug Prevention work force in the area.

Objectives

- Conduct drug prevention activities (Awareness and Campaigns) in the area.
- Build a supportive group in the village for drug prevention.
- Empower government and non-government societies for Substance Abuse Prevention in own areas.

Target Group

- Thirty Eight (38) volunteer youth leaders

Method

- Interactive Sessions (Discussions ,Using Multi – Media, Group Activities)
- Group activities and Discussions
- Role plays



Date and Venue

- 27th – 31st of January 2025
- Auditorium of National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Training Institute - Kalawewa

Budgeted and Organized by

- Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka.

Conducted by

- Preventive Education and Training Division of National Dangerous Drugs Control Board.



Role-plays and Presentations



Pre and Post test for program evaluation

Inter and Intra Personal Skills and Leadership skill develop programs



Summary of Prevention Program

No	Name of the Program	Number of Programmes	Number of Participants
01	School Awareness Programmes	24	3751
02	Parenting awareness Programmes	04	187
03	Youth Awareness Programmes	01	80
04	Community Awareness Programmes	05	604
Total		34	4622

Student Awareness Program

No.	Date	Name of the School	Number of Participants
01	29.01.2025	Galnawa National School	322
02	29.01.2025	Ihala Bulnewa Vidyalaya - Bulnewa	165
03	28.01.2025	Meegalawa National School	200
04	27.01.2025	Bulnewa Vidyalaya - Bulnewa	180
05	30.01.2025	Sirimapura Maha Vidyalaya	325
06	27.01.2025	Galnewa National School - Galnewa	273
07	31.01.2025	Nallampitiya M. V – Thambuttegama	300
08	29.01.2025	Sri Sumangala Vidyalaya – Gaaladiulwewa (Grade 9,10,11)	87
09	29.01.2025	Sri Sumangala Vidyalaya – Gaaladiulwewa (Grade 12 & 13))	19
10	30.01.2025	Bellankadawela M.V - Thabuttegama	110
11	31.01.2025	Kudagama Vidyala – Kudagama, Thabuttegama	23
12	28.01.2025	Pahala Thalawa Vidyala – Thalawa (Grade 9,10,11)	41
13	28.01.2025	Pahala Thalawa Vidyala – Thalawa (Grade 6,7,8)	35
14	28.01.2025	Vidya Pradeepa Vidyalaya - Dunupothagama	90
15	27.01.2025	Hurigaswewa Vidyalaya, Meegalewa, Bulnewa.	117
16	28.01.2025	Makulewa Maha Vidyalaya, Hurigaswewa, Bulnewa.	205
17	28.01.2025	Kalediulwewa Vidyalaya, Mahailuppallama.	126
18	29.01.2025	Pahala Vatiyawa Vidyalaya, Nochchiyagama.	127
19	29.01.2025	Ralapanawa Janapada Vidyalaya, Nochchiyagama.	178
20	31.01.2025	Thelgiriya Vidyalaya, Thambuththegama.	223
21	27.01.2025	Nelliyagama Maha Viddiyalaya	198
22	27.01.2025	Halmillawa Siri Seewali Mahaviddiyalaya	278
23	31.01.2025	Hirigollegama Viddiyalaya-Talawa	95
24	31.01.2025	Hirigollegama Viddiyalaya –Talawa	34
Total			3751

Parenting Awareness Programs

No.	Date	Name of the School	Number of Participants
01	30.01.2025	Solama Vidyalaya - Thabuttegama	80
02	31.01.2025	Kudagama Vidyalaya – Kudagama, Thabuttegama	17
03	31.01.2025	Thelgiriya Vidyalaya, Thambutthegama.	68
04	31.01.2025	Hirigollegama Vidyalaya –Talawa	22
Total			187

Youth Awareness Programs

No.	Date	Name of the School	Number of Participants
01	29.01.2025	VTA -Bulnewa	80

Community – based Substance Abuse Prevention Program

No.	Date	Name of the Community Organization	Number of Participants
01	29.01.2025	419/D1 Farmer Society - Community Hall – Daladapura, Thalawa	110
02	27.01.2025	305,D1.SD1 Samagi Farmer Society, Galnewa.	39
03	28.01.2025	D-11 Farmer society- Community Hall- Kalundegama-Thabutthegama	162
04	30.01.2025	421/D3 Farmer society – Gambiriswewa Community Hall-Mahailuppallama	85
05	28.01.2025	Community Hall- Dediwewa-Thabutthegama- Anuradhapura District	208
Total			604





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Resource Panel

Ms. Priyadarshani Rathnayake - Drug Education and Information Officer

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(BA – University of Kelaniya/ Diploma in Drug Abuse Management Studies – University of Colombo / Reading of Masters in Social Work - NISD)

Mr. W. G. Supun Udana - Drug Education and Information Assistant

(ICAP – Prevention, Recovery / PQHRM – Chartered Institute of Personal Management (CIPM) / Higher Diploma in Counseling Psychology , Diploma in Counseling Psychology – SIBA Campus, Sri Lanka / Diploma in Drug Abuse Management Studies – University of Colombo / Reading of Masters in Social Work - NISD)

Project Responsible

- Mr. Pradeep Koholanegedara - Assistant Director – Preventive Education and Training, National Dangerous Drugs Control Board.
- Mr. U. G. P. Ruwan Kumara – Assistant Director, Industrial Development Division, Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka.

Operational Responsible

- Mr. W. G. Supun Udana – Drug Education and Information Assistant, National Dangerous Drugs Control Board.
- Mr. D, V. E. Priyadarshana – Industrial Development Officer, Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka.
- Mr. Dilnuwan Kulaseksara - Industrial Development Officer, Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka.

Special Thank

- Chairman of National Dangerous Drugs Control Board.
- Director General of Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka.
- Director General of National Dangerous Drugs Control board.
- Residential Project Manager (RPM) – System E.
- Deputy Residential Project Manager (DRPM) – System E.
- Assistant Director of Preventive Education and Training Division.
- Assistant Director of Industrial Development Division – Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka.
- All supportive staff at Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka and National Dangerous Drugs Control Board.